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title: Need to provide compensation to the families of victims affected by lightning in Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to raise an issue on the floor of this House. Last week, this issue has shaken the whole of Odisha and also the people of our country when 47 people lost their lives on a single day due to lightning.

On an average, Odisha has been losing about 300 lives every year due to lightning, but never ever in the history of Odisha or that of the country it had happened where 47 people lost their lives on a single day.

I have three specific demands to make which arise out of this serious and grave situation.

Firstly, the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji expressed deep shock and grief on this tragic incident and has declared a compensation of Rs. 4 lakh to the family of the deceased person.

The hon. Prime Minister of India has also expressed deep shock and grief. In his tweet, he said that he was extremely upset over this incident.

I would urge upon the hon. Prime Minister of India and also the Government of India to immediately declare a compensation of Rs. 10 lakh per family of the deceased.

My second demand is this. There are a number of factors like floods, cyclone and earthquake, which are a part of the natural calamity, but lightning is not a part of it. I would urge upon the Union Government to include lightning also as a part of the natural calamity so that we need not have to come to Parliament every time requesting for compensation.

My third and last demand, Madam, is about predicting lightning. Can we predict lightning? That is the bigger issue. If it can be done, then loss of lives can be avoided. This is nothing new in the world. The United States of America has got a system, that is, the National Lightning Detection Network. They can predict lightning. The United Kingdom has a system of lightning mapping and super-cell tracking system, where lightning can be predicted. Even an engineer from Maharashtra, from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, has asked the Government in 2014, two years back, to extend help to him so that lightning could be predicted.

I would urge upon the Government to take cognizance of this serious fact and ensure that lightning is predicted so that the loss of thousands of lives in the country year-on-year is avoided.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, our request is that the Government should at least respond on this.

HON. SPEAKER: They will take cognizance. Nobody is saying no to that.